

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /077 W
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P R 281130Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8297
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5639

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, US, GR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ECEVIT'S VAROSHA STATEMENT; SCHAUFLE
APPOINTMENT

REF: A) ANKARA 5484, B) ANKARA 5617 (NOTAL)

1. THE STATEMENT MADE JULY 20 BY THEN-PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT CONCERNING VAROSHA HAS NOT CREATED A GROUNDSWELL OF APPROVAL IN ANKARA. ON THE CONTRARY, WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE GENERAL INTERPRETATION IS THAT, DESPITE ECEVIT'S FIRM DENIAL, THE PRIMARY MOTIVE FOR THE STATEMENT WAS DOMESTIC POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. SO FAR, NOT EVEN ECEVIT'S STRONG SUPPORTERS IN THE PRESS HAVE VOICED EDITORIAL SUPPORT FOR HIS VAROSHA POSITION. PRIMIN DEMIREL HAS REMAINED SILENT, WHILE AMONG SOPHISTICATED PARTISANS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT (I.E., THOSE WHO ARE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR PROGRESS ON CYPRUS), THE ECEVIT STATEMENT HAS CAUSED SOME CONCERN.

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2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF JULY 27, GREEK EMBOFF SAID ECEVIT'S STATEMENT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR PRIMIN DEMIREL TO RESIST PRESSURES TO SETTLE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM SINCE DEMIREL TO RESIST PRESSURES TO SETTLE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM SINCE DEMIREL COULD USE ECEVIT'S COMMENTS AS AN EXCUSE FOR INACTION. HOWEVER, HE AGREED THAT FACT THAT DEMIREL

HAS AVOIDED ENDORSING ECEVIT'S STATEMENT IS A POTENTIALLY POSITIVE AND SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT.

3. GREEK EMBOFF ALSO DESCRIBED FOLLOWING INCIDENT. EARLIER IN THE DAY, HE HAD BEEN DRIVING DOWN ONE OF ANKARA'S MAIN STREETS. WHEN STOPPED AT A STOPLIGHT, HE NOTICED THAT SITTING IN A CAR DIRECTLY TO HIS LEFT WAS FORMER PRIMIN ECEVIT. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY, THE GREEK OFFICER INTRODUCED HIMSELF. ECEVIT RESPONDED VERY PLEASANTLY AND POLITELY. THE GREEK EMBOFF THEN TOLD ECEVIT THAT HE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY ECEVIT'S STATEMENT ON VAROSHA. ECEVIT, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY THE BRASHNESS OF THE OFFICER, RESPONDED IN A PLEASANT MANNER SAYING THAT HE WAS SURE THESE THINGS COULD ALL BE WORKED OUT BY NEGOTIATION. AT THAT POINT, THE LIGHT CHANGED AND THE CONVERSATION ENDED.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH GREEK COUNSELOR AND ANOTHER GREEK EMBOFF, POLOFF DISCUSSED THE CNTROVERSY OVER AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S APPOINTMENT. THE COUNSELOR SEEMED VAGUELY EMBARRASSED BY THE INCIDENT AND BLAMED IT ON THE GREEK PRESS. THE OTHER GREEK EMBOFF, HOWEVER, OFFERED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE INCIDENT REPRESENTED AN EFFORT BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO CALL ATTENTION TO WHAT IT PERCEIVED TO BE A LACK OF USG SENSITIVITY TO THE GREEK POSITION ON THE AEGEAN. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE GOG REACTION HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE PERSONALLY, RATHER, THE GOG
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WAS CONCERNED THAT THE STATEMENT HE HAD MADE REFLECTED A USG POLICY BIAS THAT WAS DISTURBING TO ATHENS. POLOFF SUGGESTED THAT GOG DECISION, CONSCIOUS OR NOT, TO JOIN IN MISINTERPRETATION OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE USE OF THE WORD "UNUSUAL", WOULD NOT SERVE BEST INTERESTS OF EITHER COUNTRY. AS REGARDS HURRIYET ARTICLE ON THE INCIDENT, GREEK EMBOFF COULD NOT IDENTIFY SPECIFIC ARTICLE, BUT SAID THERE HAD BEEN "AT LEAST ONE" ARTICLE IN TURKISH PRESS ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT SCHAUFFLE'S STATEMENT. (REF B).
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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